



## Wet Field Conditions Slowed Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, July 9, 2006, were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 15% adequate, and 85% surplus. Temperatures averaged near normal across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued harvesting where conditions permitted, but there was very little field activity because ground was too wet to work on. Spraying continued across the state. A reporter in the northern district indicated water had affected some cantaloupe fields. There was a report in the central district of some disease on pasture grasses, turf and some vegetables. Harvest of lettuces, cabbage, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, herbs, and cucumbers continued. Picking of blueberries continued in the central district. Bees continued to pollinate cranberries. Peaches were sizing well in the northern district. Wheat was rated in mostly fair condition. Corn and soybean were rated in mostly good condition. Pasture was rated in mostly good to excellent condition.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 10, 2006

**Arugula & Cilantro** – Fair to good quality products are being harvested in fair to decreasing volume with increasing temperatures.

**Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach** - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not as affected by the heat.

**Basil** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product with the increasing temperatures.

**Beets** – A good volume of good quality product is available.

**Blueberries** – The Duke variety is winding down as the Bluecrop variety is being picked in volume for another 2-3 weeks. The late variety Elliott is starting next week and will be available for a few weeks in volume. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks very good. A better than average crop this year.

**Cabbage** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

**Cantaloupes** – Good quality tunnel started product just began with field-grown product and volume expected next week.

**Dill & Parsley** – A good volume of very good quality Spring planted product available.

**Cucumbers** – Harvesting a good quantity of good quality Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) and Cukes.

**Eggplant** – Harvest of good quality product has begun with volume expected later on this week.

**Escarole & Endive** – Harvesting a light to decreasing quantity of good quality product with the increased temperatures.

**Greens** - Great quality and good quantities seen of Collards, Kale, Kholrabi, Mustard, and Swiss Chard.

**Leeks & Green Onions** – Transplanted product available in good quality and quantity. Spring planted products available next week.

**Lettuce** – Finishing up Boston, Red and Green Leaf. Harvesting light quantities of Romaine. The continued heat is hastening the end of the season.

**Nectarines** – Very light harvest of the early variety Eastern Glo has started with volume expected in several weeks. Fruit quality, including size, is very good for all varieties.

**Peaches** – The yellow peach harvest has begun with a good volume of the Sentry variety. Freestone peaches are expected next week with the beginning of the Red Haven varieties. The white peach harvest will begin later this week with the White Lady variety. Volume is expected late next week. The newer white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Fruit quality, including size, is very good for all varieties. We'll have a volume of good quality peaches until mid-September.

**Peas** – Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume of great quality local peas, Fava beans, and Snap beans.

**Peppers** – Harvesting a fair volume of excellent quality product. Volume by next week.

**Radishes** – Although temperature sensitive, a light quantity of good quality product should be available all season.

**Spinach** – Fair to decreasing volume of fair to good quality product being harvested with the increasing temperatures.

**Squash** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality Yellow and Zucchini.

**Tomatoes** – Harvesting a good quality and fair quantity of field-grown product with volume increasing quickly. Good prices still being paid to farmers.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality corn. Peak of season should be the third week of July. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

**Turnips** – Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

**White Potatoes** - Redskin variety being harvested with Superior round variety. There will be a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these in the past and they've sold quite well.